MEMBERS EQUITY STADIUM

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine - Minister for Sport and Recreation) [12.05 pm]: I am pleased to inform the House of advice I received this morning that the Town of Vincent and Allia Holdings have resolved their issues over the use of Members Equity Stadium. I congratulate Mayor Nick Catania and Nick Tana, the creator of Perth Glory, for reaching what is a great agreement. I welcome this news; it is good news for all parties and for the soccer loving community in Western Australia. Perth Oval - or Members Equity Stadium as it is now called - has been redeveloped into a fantastic rectangular facility. I am proud of this Government's commitment of $6.8 million as part of the overall $11 million project to ensure we have a ground that supports soccer and our reigning National Soccer League champions, Perth Glory. The facility will also strengthen our case when the State looks to step up lobbying to have a Perth team as part of a super 14 rugby union competition, which we all hope will soon be a reality.

I point out to those opposite that a heads of agreement was in place between the State Government and the Town of Vincent. It guaranteed the use of the ground through the Town of Vincent for all possible sporting activities; therefore, games would have continued to be staged at the ground no matter what rhetoric was used at times. It is important to acknowledge the work done by Ron Alexander, the Director General of the Department of Sport and Recreation. He has achieved an excellent result on this occasion. Given that the Government was not a party to the dispute, Ron was allowed to play an important and vital mediation role. Whenever passionate people are involved in passionate issues, it is good to have a referee who ensures that when the play gets tough, ultimately there is an outcome. In this game the score was even and, as a result, we are all winners.